

Dockets Management Branch
Food and Drug Administration
5360 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

June 30, 1999

9460 '99 JUL 13 P2:24

RE: Docket No. 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

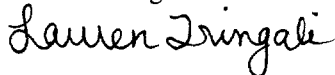
To Whom It May Concern:

I am extremely concerned about the prospect of weakening the labeling requirements for irradiated food. Any foods, or any foods that contain ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be clearly labeled with a written statement on the packaging indicating that it has received such treatment. The statement should be easily identifiable and placed near the name of the food. In addition, the radura, the international symbol of irradiated food should accompany the statement. If food is not contained in packages, such as produce, then this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.

Like other labels, irradiation labels are required by the FDA to be truthful and not misleading. The requirement for irradiation disclosure (both statement and symbol) should not expire at any time in the future. Without such labeling consumers are unable to make informed decisions. As an individual, I oppose any food that has been irradiated. As consumer, I will not purchase any foods or any foods that contain ingredients that have undergone radiation. Irradiation destroys vitamins, causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities apparent to the consumer, creates a new class of unique radiolytic products that have never been test for possible carcinogenic effects on humans, and creates new volumes of toxic radioactive waste. There are numerous people who feel the same way. Such labeling is essential for the consumer to make his or her decisions about purchasing foods that have received radiation. The first step to making such a decision is the ability to know whether foods have been irradiated. Many will assume that the absence of a statement and the symbol means that foods have not been irradiated. The public must remain informed upon this issue so they can be sure they are making decisions based upon truthful and not misleading information. As part of the process of informing the public I would like to request that you please place all comments on the Internet.

Sincerely,

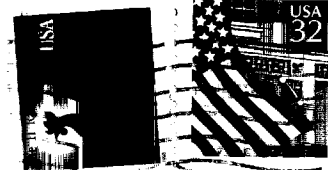
Lauren Tringali



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